

21st August 1925]

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I have no information."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister kindly enquire?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" There was no complaint made to the Registrar."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" My information is that Mr. Davis actually complained to Mr. Gray."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" If there was a complaint it would have been sent to us."

Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—" There was only one small specific complaint that I made; I have no general complaint whatever."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Was that complaint attended to?"

Appointment of chairmen of municipalities, etc., as honorary assistant registrars of Co-operative Societies in Chingleput.

* 271 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state

(a) whether any presidents of taluk boards or chairmen of municipalities have been appointed as honorary assistant registrars in the Chingleput district;

(b) if so, what are their names and when were they appointed;

(c) whether Government propose to reappoint them when their terms expire; and

(d) whether there are not in the Chingleput district persons who are directly connected with the co-operative movement and have the requisite leisure to perform the duties of honorary assistant registrars?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) M.R.Ry. Rai Sahib C. Aruliah Nayudu Garu.

" C. Sambasiva Chettiyar Avargal.

" K. Venugopala Mudaliyar Avargal.

Their present appointment dates from 1st August 1924.

(c) The question has not yet been considered.

(d) The Government understand that the three gentlemen mentioned are closely connected with the co-operative movement. They have no information as to other persons connected with the movement in Chingleput who have the requisite leisure to perform the duties of honorary assistant registrar.

Alleged malpractices among the panchayatdars of co-operative societies.

* 272 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of certain malpractices among some panchayatdars of co-operative societies which endanger the investment of funds in them, such as themselves borrowing the bulk of the amount and continuing to be defaulters and granting to their own dependants loans on

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insufficient securities and also bringing into existence benami bonds and tampering with accounts so as to conceal frauds and misappropriations in the societies;

(b) whether any special disciplinary measures are recommended in such cases;

(c) whether the Government discourage criminal prosecutions in such cases; and

(d) whether departmental officers are allowed to start prosecutions without the sanction of their superior officers?

A.—(a) Abuses of the kind mentioned do occasionally occur.

(b) Where serious fraud or misappropriation occurs, the case is reported to the Registrar with a view to the prosecution of the offender.

(c) No.

(d) No.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"With reference to clause (a), do the Government propose to take measures to minimise the malpractices?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Yes; if they are found to be necessary."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Is the hon. the Minister aware that in several societies, the using of the cash balances by the office-bearers is visited by no other sign of disapproval from the department than by a letter to the very people who participated in this, and naturally these letters are merely crumpled and thrown away?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"If the hon. Member would give me any suggestions, I will consider them."

Industries.

Disposal of certain machinery purchased for the Kerala Soap Institute.

* 273 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state the circumstances under which the Hornsby oil engine and pump purchased for the Kerala Soap Institute were sold for less than half its price; to whom they were sold and whether other departments of Government were consulted prior to their sale?

A.—The engine and pump were purchased in the year 1919 with the intention of employing them in the soap factory in connexion with a causticising plant for the manufacture of caustic soda. Subsequently the price of caustic soda fell and the proposal to erect the plant was given up. The engine was of an old type and was not likely to be useful to other Government departments. It was sold in 1924 to Messrs. Saviour & Co., Calicut, for Rs. 1,000, the best offer obtainable.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, were the other departments approached at all in the matter? I want to know whether the officer did really enquire of other departments whether the oil engine was required or did he simply think out of his own imagination that they might not need it."